

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190651
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER:MFR
APPROVED BY EA:WILLIAM H. GLEYSTEN, JR.
EA/K:RGRICH
S/S: SGOLDSMITH

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P R 120039Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190651

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:YGDS-2

TAGS: KN, CH, US

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DECLARATION OF MILITARY SEA ZONE:
AUGUST 11 DEMARCHE TO CHINESE

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, AT CLOSE OF AUGUST 11
LUNCHEON FOR PRC LIAISON OFFICE ACTING CHIEF HAN HSU, MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS TO HAN ON SEA ZONE:

A) THE US DOES NOT ACCEPT THE AUGUST 1 UNILATERAL ANNOUNCE-
MENT BY THE NORTH KOREANS OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENT OF A
"MILITARY BOUNDARY" IN CONNECTION WITH AN "ECONOMIC SEA
ZONE" OFF THE PENINSULA.

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B) ON AUGUST 2 WE INFORMED THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES AT
PANMUNJOM THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD
MODIFY UNILATERALLY THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OR LIMIT OUR
CURRENT OPERATIONS.

" - WE ALSO STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE USG HAS NEVER
ACCEPTED THE UNILATERAL CLAIM OF ATTRIBUTES OF SOVEREIGNTY
(SUCH AS CONTROL OF THE RIGHT OF FREE TRANSIT OVER PORTIONS

OF THE HIGH SEAS) OUTSIDE A NARROWLY DEFINED TERRITORIAL
SEA ZONE.

D) SINCE YOUR GOVERNMENT IS ONE OF SEVERAL AFFECTED BY
SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE KNOWING YOUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

2. HAN ASKED IF WE WERE MAKING THE SAME POINTS TO THE
NORTH KOREANS OR EXPECTED THE CHINESE TO DO SO. HE
REITERATED THE CHINESE POSITION THAT IF WE HAD ANYTHING TO
SAY TO THE NORTH KOREANS WE SHOULD DO SO DIRECTLY TO THEM
AND NOT ASK THE CHINESE TO DO SO. HOLBROOKE CONFIRMED
THAT WE HAD SPOKEN TO THE NORTH KOREANS. HE ADDED THAT
SINCE THE NORTH KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT HAD IMPLICATIONS AS
WELL FOR THE PRC, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, AND THE USSR, WE
WERE MAKING OUR POSITION CLEAR TO ALL THESE GOVERNMENTS.

CHRISTOPHER

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